

## THE SOUTHERN FLOODS.

## Destruction of Life and Property in Georgia and Alabama.

Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 31.—Great loss of life and terrible destruction to property in Georgia and Alabama between Atlanta and Montgomery was followed by Saturday's downpour of rain. Four deaths are known to have resulted from the flood near Westpoint, while the destruction to property is extensive there and along the lines of the Atlanta & Westpoint and Western railway of Alabama. A telephone message from Westpoint stated that the river has risen 25 feet, and three or four bridges and a culvert have been washed away. The streets of Westpoint are flooded and many people moved into second stories for comfort and safety.

Freight train No. 21, with 15 cars on the Western railway of Alabama, went into a washed out culvert at Notasul, Ga. The engine turned completely over and Engineer Thomas Russell was killed. C. Lee, the Negro fireman, fatally injured; and two trainmen badly hurt. Train No. 209 started to the wreck, but went through an open culvert five miles out of Westpoint. No one was injured in this accident, however.

Four men attempted to cross the Chattahoochee river near this point shortly after noon, with the result that three, two white men and one Negro, drowned. The fourth, a Negro, escaped unhurt.

Montgomery, Ala., Dec. 31.—The flood in the Tallapoosa river broke the dam of the Tallapoosa Electric Co., 180 of the 670 feet of solid masonry giving way. The dam cost \$400,000. The power was to have been turned into Montgomery early in January. Two hundred feet of the Tallapoosa cotton mills stone dam was broken and the loss is estimated at \$50,000. The rainfall was over seven inches and ten feet of water poured over the whole length of the power company's dam.

Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 31.—President Wickersham hopes to have the Atlanta & West Point track in condition for traffic as far as West Point, Ga., Tuesday. Mail for New Orleans and Texas points is being sent around by way of Birmingham and Meridian, while Pensacola, which is usually reached via Montgomery, is being served through Jacksonville. The river at West Point began falling Monday afternoon and all danger is believed to have passed. No trains have been run over the East & West railroad since Saturday. The company's trestle over Etowah river, near Cartersville, Ga., is covered and the track for four miles beyond is under water.

## A VIGOROUS DISCLAIM.

## Postal Department Corrects a Misstatement Regarding 2d Class Matter.

Washington, Dec. 31.—A statement circulated broadcast by a publisher's bureau in Chicago that the post office department has ruled that a subscription to any publication entered as second class matter must be discontinued on expiration of the time for which it has been paid in advance, is given a vigorous disclaimer in instructions issued by Assistant Postmaster General Madden. The instructions direct all postmasters to notify publishers in their respective cities that this statement is untrue and misrepresents the attitude of the department, and that there has been no such change with regard to subscriptions as to legitimate second class publications.

## DIAMOND STUDDED MEDAL.

## A Trophy Presented to Rr. Adm. Schley By the Junior Order.

Washington, Dec. 31.—Maryland councils of the Junior Order of United American Mechanics Monday night presented to Rr. Adm. Winfield Scott Schley a magnificent medal studded with diamonds as an evidence of their personal esteem and admiration and of his services to the country. The presentation took place in Adm. Schley's apartments in this city and was made by a committee from the councils which came over from Baltimore on an afternoon train.

## THE PRISONERS OF WAR.

## Chief Geremio and 298 Arizona Apache Indians to Be Released.

Guthrie, Okla., Dec. 31.—Gen. Frank Armstrong, as agent of the war department, is at Fort Sill, Okla., making arrangements for the release of Chief Geremio and the 298 Arizona Apache Indians who are held by the government as prisoners of war. They were captured by Gen. Lawton 12 years ago after a 3,000 mile campaign. They will be allotted land by the government.

**Wages Voluntarily Increased.**  
Baltimore, Dec. 31.—Official announcement was made Monday at the general offices of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad of an increase in the wages of trainmen and switchmen on that road. The increase will average about eight per cent. and was made without request from the employees.

## Death of Mrs. Edla C. Muir.

New York, Dec. 31.—Mrs. Edla Coleman Muir, daughter of the late Senator McPherson, of New Jersey, is dead in this city, from pneumonia, complicated with measles. Mrs. Muir's husband is Dr. Joseph Muir, United States consul at Stockholm, Sweden.

**Two Killed and Three Hurt.**  
Dallas, Tex., Dec. 31.—A special from El Paso, Tex., says: Two men were killed and three seriously injured in a gravel train wreck on the El Paso & Northeastern railroad, one mile from here Monday.

## CHINESE AFFAIRS.

## The Participants in the Recent Massacre to Be Punished.

Peking, Jan. 1.—The Gazette publishes an edict recounting the massacre at Ning Sha Foo, in Kan Soo province (where a missionary and a number of Christian converts were reported to have been killed, supposedly by troops under the command of Gen. Tung) and ordering Chinese officials to pursue and punish the guilty outlaws.

It is undoubtedly true that Belgian missionaries with Chinese converts occupy fortified villages in the region about Ning Sha Foo and, according to an unconfirmed report which has reached the Belgian legation here, another missionary near Ning Sha Foo has been murdered.

A second edict degrades the magistrate and other Chinese officials within whose jurisdiction the massacre occurred, but retains them in office until the murderers shall have been secured. Unless they succeed in apprehending the guilty parties, they are forbidden in perpetuity to hold office. This edict will doubtless result in the punishment of somebody, whether guilty or not.

Prince Ching, one of the Chinese plenipotentiaries, has persuaded the dowager empress to leave at the border of Chi Li province the troops under the command of Gen. Tung Fu Siang, who escorted her to this point and who desired to come to Peking. Nevertheless their two principal officers, who were Gen. Tung Fu Siang's chief aides, during the attack upon the legations will accompany the court to this city.

Yung Lu, the Chinese imperial treasurer, proposes to give each of these officers command of a force equal to that of the forces commanded by Gen. Ma and Gen. Chiang, and which are now in Peking.

An edict has been issued restoring the honors to Chang Wing Huan, formerly Chinese minister to the United States, who was degraded in 1898 for his reform proclivities and was exiled in Turkestan, where he was beheaded at the beginning of the "Boxer" movement by command of the dowager empress.

United States Minister Conger and Sir Ernest Salow, the British representative, requested the posthumous restoration of Chang Wing Huan's honors on behalf of his family.

## "TOGETHER."

## British Poet Laureate Dedicates a Poem to the American People.

New York, Jan. 1.—The forthcoming number of the Independent will print a poem by Alfred Austin, poet laureate of England, entitled "Together," and dedicated "With warmest sympathy to the American people." Following are the two closing verses which speak best the sentiment of the poet:

"Should envious aliens plan and plot  
'Gainst one and now the other,  
They swift would learn how strong the knot  
Binds brother unto brother.  
How quickly they would change their tack  
And show the recreant feather.  
Should Star and Stripe and Union Jack  
But float mast-high together.

Now let us give one hearty grip  
As by true men is given,  
And vow fraternal fellowship  
That never shall be riven;  
And with our peaceful flags unfurled,  
Be fair or foul the weather,  
Should need arise, face all the world  
And stand or fall together."

## CHILDREN'S DAY NURSERY.

## Mrs. Jennie T. Hobart's Munificent New Year's Day Gift.

New York, Jan. 1.—The Paterson, N. J., children's day nursery received a New Year's gift Tuesday from Mrs. Jennie T. Hobart, widow of the late Vice President Hobart. It is a plot of land 100x125 feet in Paterson. Mrs. Hobart also gave \$25,000 with which to erect and completely furnish a modern building adapted to the needs of the nursery.

## AMERICAN PACKING HOUSE.

## A Plant Will Be Established in the State of Michoacan, Mexico.

Mexico City, Jan. 1.—A great American packing house, to be established in the state of Michoacan, near the town of Uruapam, will soon be under active construction, a capital of \$1,600,000 gold having been subscribed in Chicago. Uruapam, besides being a great coffee growing place, is in the heart of the cattle country.

## The McGovern-Sullivan Fight.

New York, Jan. 1.—The Terry McGovern-Dave Sullivan fight will take place before the Yosemite athletic club, San Francisco, some time between March 17 and April 30. This was decided here Tuesday afternoon. The bid was made by James S. Kennedy, who will bring the match off in conjunction with the Jeffries-Sharkey bout.

## Declines the Office.

Washington, Jan. 1.—First Assistant Postmaster General Johnson has declined a tender made to him by Gov. Voorhees of the office of state treasurer of New Jersey. Mr. Johnson said that while he appreciated the honor done him he preferred to remain in his present position.

**Granted An Unconditional Pardon.**  
Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 1.—Gov. Savage's private secretary says the governor has granted an unconditional pardon from the penitentiary to former State Treasurer Joseph Bartley.

## PUZZLE PICTURE.



"SHE IS STILL WEARING LAST SEASON'S HAT."  
WHERE IS "SHE?"

## AGUINALDO'S REGALIA.

## How Its Present Owner Came Into Possession of the Famous Filipino's Sash.

The regalia of Aguinaldo which he wore in full uniform is now in possession of a private soldier of our army, who is fully aware of its value as a relic, states the San Francisco Examiner.

Once it shone in all its splendor of silver stars and lace upon the white dress uniform of the island leader—now, by the fortunes of war and flight, it is the property of Private Richard H. Cooper, a Santa Paula young man of troop F, Eleventh United States volunteer cavalry, who returned to Los Angeles on June 29 from the Philippines.

The Eleventh was the only United States volunteer cavalry in service since the civil war, and troop M of the Eleventh distinguished itself by its famous charge at the battle of San Mateo, where Gen. Lawton lost his life.

Cooper tells an interesting story: Company G of the Thirty-seventh United States Infantry started out in pursuit of Aguinaldo in February, 1900, chasing him for ten days or more up through the mountains of southern Luzon. They finally lost track of him and went over the swamps into Camarines province. But so hot was the pursuit and so near did it come at one point to capture that some of the ponies in Aguinaldo's band were shot and the leader threw away bundles of clothing and other stuff in his mad desire to escape his pursuers.

It was in one of those critical moments that Corporal Belding, a friend of Cooper, picked up in the trail amid the bamboo jungle a small bag of muslin which contained this regalia, a small flag of the province of Vigan, and wrapped in it a curious dagger with a point of needle-like sharpness. Belding took out the sash first, and, it being similar to a decoration worn by a priest, thought it belonged to one of them, but hid the bag hurriedly for fear the Fourth cavalry, which was passing, might get it. When he showed it to his friend in the morning Cooper asked him if he might take it and show it to some one. Belding thereupon made him a present of the bag and its contents.

Cooper showed it to Capt. Agnew, of the Eleventh cavalry, who exclaimed at once at sight of the red and silver star: "Why, man, you've got a prize there! That regalia is Aguinaldo's own, for I have seen him wear it many times during dress parade before the outbreak. I know that star."

The regalia is heavily embroidered in solid silver, for which Mr. Cooper was offered a goodly sum by the native silversmiths in Manila. The most interesting piece is the silver embroidered shoulder sash, somewhat stained by wear, of yellow satin richly incrust-

ed with silver, and where it crosses the breast shines a six-pointed silver star of openwork upon red satin, the badge of Aguinaldo's highest rank. A broad belt of yellow satin and silver, wide cuffs of blue satin spangled with silver, and four decorations in the form of silver leaves, which were worn upon the breast, are also parts of this glittering insignia. Here are the great silver star and hatband that decorated the sombrero and completed the paraphernalia which rendered Aguinaldo a gorgeous figure when worn over his white suit at dress parade—for he never wore this regalia over a khaki uniform.

Mr. Cooper was offered large sums by officers anxious to purchase this regalia as a remembrance of Aguinaldo, but declined, considering it the more valuable from the fact that only one other such suit of regalia owned by Aguinaldo is known. According to a current army rumor, that suit was presented to the insurgent leader by Maj. Gen. E. S. Otis, and is now in Washington.

## Passing of the Carabao.

Even time-honored fixtures must give way to the advance of modern civilization. The carabao, whose leisurely gait Manila has known for so many generations, sniffs the air and rolls his eyes suspiciously as the clang of a gong and the whir of wheels announce the approach of the automobile. Poor brute; he sees his finish. The horseless wagon seems destined to become a permanence here, where the level country permits its unhampered use. This may be the eventual solution of the problem of drayage in these parts. Carabaos and Filipino ponies are relics of barbarism. The heavy draft horses of Europe and America can not stand the climate. Therefore why not the automobile as the general carrier of freight for short distances?—Manila Critic.

## Mirrors Make Lions Roar.

"Lions object to mirrors," observes a keeper in a menagerie. "On one occasion a looking glass in the hands of a small boy so frightened and excited our largest lion that we feared he would injure himself. The wretched youngster had drawn a hand mirror from beneath his coat and held it before the face of the king of beasts. The latter looked and jumped for the rival whom he thought he saw. The bars of his cage dashed him back again and again, while he filled the whole house with terrific roars. I have known several other cases in which lions have been thrown in the wildest panic merely by a mirror being held up before them."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

## Human Faculty.

"I speak," said Uncle Eben, "dat de gift o' prophecy wouldn't do us much good if we had it. A man knows he's gwinter' git sick if he eats too much dinner. But he goes an' does it."—Washington Post.

I have been away from my native country, America, for several years, but I paid the dear old land a long-deferred visit recently.

## The Decline of Domesticity

By SADIE MERRITT,  
Paris Correspondent.

At the time of that visit what is it, do you suppose, that impressed me most? It was the gradual lessening of the family ties; the decline of domesticity.

Not that I had been away so long as to see a marked change in this respect, but that the tendency in that direction that has been growing for the last quarter of a century or more has been steadily advancing. To-day the average American woman thinks less of her home, less of her husband, less of her family than she did when I left my home land a few years ago.

The mannish woman has replaced the womanly woman of but a few years ago, and with the coming of the mannish woman there has developed a desire for freedom from home duties and home cares; less thought for the husband, the son, the daughter than there was in the old days. There are more society scandals, though they attract less attention because more numerous; more unhappy marriages; more divorces.

## And why?

Because the home has lost its attractiveness; because the family has drifted apart; because father, son, mother and daughter have found new interests outside of the family circle.

It argues ill for the future of the nation that this should be so. A strong nation is a nation not alone of strong men but of strong families—families bound together by the old sacred tie.

## A LITTLE NONSENSE.

It is much better to agree to what you know is not so than to argue with a person who doesn't know anything about it.—Puck.

"Time is money, without a doubt." "What inspires this sage suggestion?" "It is so easy to spend foolishly."—Indianapolis News.

Not Easy.—"My! I think your mother would be worried if you saw you!" "Well, it's pretty hard for a boy to get along without worrying his mother!"—Puck.

Not Dangerous.—"Tess—It seems she was taken with Mr. Cadleigh's intelligence." Jess—"Well, if that's all she's taken with it isn't a very severe attack."—Philadelphia Press.

Learning Their Ways.—"Do you think she will ever be a great prima donna?" "Looks like it. Why, she has disappointed the public by failing to appear several times already."—Philadelphia Evening Bulletin.

An Author's Grievance.—"Riter says that post office clerk insulted him." "In what way?" "Why, when he handed in his package of manuscript to mail it, the clerk inquired: 'Is it first class?'"—Philadelphia Evening Bulletin.

Another One Thwarted.—"I flatter myself you will like this article," said the would-be contributor. "That's a fact," said the editor, after glancing over it. "You do like it, then?" "No; I mean it's a fact that you flatter yourself."—Philadelphia Record.

Servant (bursting into room)—"Oh, mum, I offered 'im some water, an' 'e went into a fit an' frothed at the mouth!" Mistress (much alarmed, thinking she refers to the dog)—"Gracious, Jane! What can it be—hydrophobia?" Servant—"No, mum, a tramp."—Glasgow Evening Times.

## HANGING GARDENS.

## A Traveler Describes Those He Has Recently Seen in the Interior of Eastern Arabia.

The hanging gardens of Babylon, constructed over 500 years before the Christian era, were reckoned at that time among the wonders of the world. A hanging garden is a garden formed in terraces rising one above the other. There were five of these gardens at Babylon each consisting of an artificial hill, 400 feet square, the sides divided into terraces of earth resting on stone platforms covered with groves, avenues and beds of flowers and provided with galleries and banqueting rooms. They were irrigated from a reservoir at the summit filled with water raised from the Euphrates.

There are to-day, says the New York Sun, many hanging gardens in various parts of the world, particularly on mountain sides in China, water being raised in buckets sometimes thousands of feet to irrigate them. Col. S. B. Miles, of the British army, has just described the hanging gardens he found on the mountains in the interior of Arabia about 60 miles southwest of the trading port of Muscat. Visitors have to cross a stretch of desert to reach this beautiful region of verdure amid the thirst lands.

One of the inland towns is Sherazi perched on the brow of a lofty cliff which falls to the valley beneath. The town is built on so steep a declivity that the houses appear to overhang one another, the only communication being by means of steps leading from one to another row of buildings. Just below the town is a copious spring of pure water gushing from the rock in sufficient quantity to meet the requirements of the inhabitants and to supply the channels that fertilize the hanging gardens below.

These extensive gardens, spread along the precipitous valley walls, are the most beautiful feature of Sherazi. The whole face of the mountain side to a depth of over 1,000 feet is cut into a parallel series of ledges or terraces. Owing to the sharp angle of the slope, the ledges are not over ten or twelve feet in width. The inhabitants would be glad of greater depth of soil and the garden spots have been enriched by a large amount of fertile earth brought to them.

The steep mountain side is almost barren except for the beautiful strips of green where vineyards, orchards and wheat fields are bearing. These curious gardens with their varied foliage and ripening fruit, grain and vegetables form a very attractive and pleasing sight. The labor bestowed on the terraces would have been futile without an abundant supply of water and in this respect nature has been prodigal, the strips of cultivation being easily and perpetually irrigated by the mountain stream which is led from one ledge to another and is kept from overflowing by little embankments along the margin.

## Chinese Officialdom.

The "Sin Wan Pao" complains that the higher and lower ranks of Chinese officialdom have little intercourse and hence are not mutually helpful. But Chang Chih-tung and Tuan Fang, of Hupeh, have devised an excellent plan to overcome this difficulty. Formerly all subordinates consumed much time in calling upon their superiors at their yamens each 1st and 15th of each month. In Wuchang they have now arranged one central meeting place for subordinates and superiors, with six fixed days a month for a general assemblage of officials. This plan somewhat resembles the western parliament, for the officials come together and discuss public business. Japan has had the same idea, and her officials come together regularly at one meeting place for mutual counsel and help. —Shanghai Mercury.

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